

<sup>c</sup> With the calmness and firmness which the spectacle of death imparts, I will recall the dim days when egotism and fear had their seats in the government councils. People were beginning to know something of the iniquity, but it was supported, defended, by such public and secret powers that the most resolute hesitated. Those whose duty it was to speak out remained silent. Some of the best, who feared nothing personally, dreaded lest they should involve their party in frightful dangers. Led astray "by monstrous lies, excited by odious declamation, the multitude of the people, believing they were betrayed, grew exasperated. . . . The darkness thickened. Sinister silence reigned. And it was then that Zola addressed to the President of the Republic that well-measured yet terrible letter which denounced falsity and collusion.

" "With what fury was he assailed by the criminals, by their interested defenders, by their involuntary accomplices, by coalitions of all the reactionary parties, by the deceived multitude, you know—that full well you saw innocently minded people joining in all simplicity the hideous *cortege* of hireling bra-wlers. You heard the howls of rage and the cries of death which pursued him even into the Palais de Justice during that long trial when he was judged in voluntary ignorance, on false testimony, amid the clatter of swords. I see here some of those who then stood beside him, who shared his dangers. Let them say if ever more insult was hurled at a just man ! Let them say too with what firmness he endured it! Let them say if his robust kindness, his manly pity, ever deserted him, if his constancy was for a moment shaken! In those abominable days more than one good citizen despaired of the salvation of the country, of the moral

fortune of France. Not only were the Republicans defending the present *regime* terrified, but one of the most resolute enemies of the *regime*, an irreconcilable Socialist, exclaimed bitterly, 'If present-day society be so corrupt as this, one will not even be able to found a new society on its fragments I' Indeed, justice, honour, common sense, all seemed lost.

" But all was saved. Zola had not merely revealed a judicial